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DESIGNATION OF TYPE SPECIES FOR THE GENERA OF AUSTRALIAN PAROPSINE BEETLES (COLEOPTERA: CHRYSOMELIDAE)

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Abstract

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Type species are listed for all Australian genera in the subtribe Paropsina, including necessary first designations for *Chrysophtharta* Weise, *Faex* Weise, *Notoclea* Marsham, *Pyrgoides* gen. nov., *Sterromela* Weise, *Trachymela* Weise and *Trochalodes* Weise. The synonymy of *Notoclea* with *Paropsis* Olivier, and *Pyrgoides* with *Acacicola* Lea are confirmed. A new species synonym is recorded: *Paropsis hamadryas* Stål = *Acacicola tristis* Lea.

Introduction

The paropsine chrysomelids are among the most diverse and taxonomically intricate group of beetles associated with natural vegetation in Australian. A few paropsines have in recent years become serious pests in eucalypt plantations in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. Many of the 450 described species have been allocated uncritically to genus and the genera themselves have not always been delineated clearly. This paper is a start towards resolving these taxonomic problems.

The genus *Paropsis* was erected by Olivier (1807) for 14 Australian chrysomelid species. Marsham (1808) erected the genus *Notoclea* with 20 species which were incorporated into *Paropsis* by Olivier (1825). Subsequently, Boisduval (1835), Erichson (1842), Germar (1848), Boheman (1858), Stål (1860), Clark (1864, 1866), Baly (1864), Chapuis (1877) and Blackburn (1890–1901) added large numbers of species to the genus, so that by 1916, 406 species were listed from Australia (Weise, 1916). Since 1916, a number of species have been described by Weise (1817, 1923), Lea (1924), Gressitt (1963) and Selman (1983), and the current total is about 450 species.

This large number of rather similar species, many with quite inadequate descriptions, has made identification by later workers very difficult. Several attempts have been made to split *Paropsis* into smaller groups. Motschulsky (1960) split three genera from *Paropsis*, namely *Dicranosterna, Niliosoma*, and *Paropsisterna*. Blackburn, in a series of papers (1897a–1901) arranged *Paropsis* into five "groups" and a number of "subgroups" while still retaining the genus *Paropsis* for all species. Weise (1901–1915) split *Paropsis* into nine genera: *Sterromela* Weise, *Trochalodes* Weise, and *Dicranosterna* Motschulsky in the tribe Dicranosternini Weise and *Paropsis* Olivier, *Paropsisterna* Motschulsky, *Chrysophtharta* Weise, *Trachymela* Weise, *Faex* Weise, *Procris* Weise, *Philhydronopa* Weise and *Pyrgo* Weise in the tribe Paropsinini Weise. Most of these genera are poorly diagnosed with no accompanying illustrations. Some are defined only by the species that Weise placed in them and most lack designated type species.

Daccordi (1994) presented a checklist of world chrysomeline genera and made several new synonymic designations in the paropsine genera, thus at present 15 Australian genera are considered valid.

For this paper type specimens were examined for most designated type species and where none was available specimens named by Blackburn or Lea were used. The validity of these genera is not discussed here.

Australian generic names in the Paropsina (*sensu* Daccordi, 1994), with designated type species

The name *Coccinelloides* Latreille is not listed below. Selman (1963) following Weise (1916) claimed that this is an available generic-rank name based on a species, "australasiae", without authorship. He then decided that *Chrysomela australasiae* Fabricius was the intended species and declared this to be the type species. We believe that the phrase "coccinelloides australasiae" of Latreille (1807:58) was never meant to be generic but was merely descriptive and this is clearly how Latreille uses the term 'coccinelloides' in a later work (1825: 10).

Acacicola Lea, 1902: 392

Type species. Acacicola tristis Lea, 1903 by monotypy.

Choudromela Weise, 1915: 435

Type species. Choudromela mjoebergi Weise, 1915 by monotypy.

Chrysophtharta Weise, 1901: 165

Type species. Weise (1901) did not nominate a type species but listed six species. The first of these, *Paropsis nobilitata* Erichson, 1842, is here designated type species.

Dicranosterna Motschulsky, 1860: 193

Type species. Paropsis picea Olivier, 1807 by original designation.

Faex Weise 1901: 165

Type species. Weise (1901) did not designate a type species but listed three species names. The first, *Paropsis notatipennis* Chapuis, 1877 is here designated type species.

Niliosoma Motschulsky, 1860: 194

Type species. Paropsis testacea Olivier, 1807 by original designation. This species is unrecognisable and the type is apparently lost. *Niliosoma* is therefore a *nomen dubium* and unusable, but it any case it has always been ignored by Australian workers.

Notoclea Marsham, 1808: 283

Type species. Marsham described 20 species in this genus but failed to designate a type. *Notoclea obsoleta* Marsham, 1808 is hereby designated type species. *Notoclea obsoleta* is a junior synonym and homonym of *Paropsis obsoleta* Olivier, 1808 therefore synonymy of the two genera is confirmed (Daccordi, 1994).

Novacastria Selman, 1983a: 179

Type species. Novacastria nothofagi Selman, 1983 by original designation and monotypy.

Paropsides Motschulsky, 1860: 192

Type species. Paropsis duodecimpustulata Gebler, 1825 by original designation.

Paropsis Olivier, 1807: 596

Type species. Paropsis obsoleta Olivier, 1807 by subsequent designation (Selman, 1963).

Paropsisterna Motschulsky, 1860: 192

Type species. Notoclea sexpustulata Marsham, 1808 by original designation.

Phillydroupa Weise, 1901: 166

Type species. Paropsis aeneipennis Chapuis, 1877 by original designation.

Procrisina Aslam, 1968: 129

Procris Weise, 1901: 165, nec Fabricius, 1807 (junior homonym).

Clorindina Jolivet, 1957: 170, nec Khodalerich, 1930 (junior homonym).

Clorindiella Jolivet, 1971: 382 (unecessary nom. nov.).

Type species. Paropsis pictipennis Boheman, 1858 by original designation (Weise, 1901).

Pyrgoides gen. nov.

Pyrgo Weise 1901: 166, nec Defrance, 1824 (junior homonym).

Pyrgoides Aslam, 1968: 129 (nomen nudum, no type species)

Type species. The name *Pyrogoides* was proposed by Aslam (1968) as a replacement name for the preoccupied *Pyrgo* Weise. Published after 1930 Aslam's name is unavailable as no type species was designated (ICZN Article 13(b)). We make it available here. Weise (1901) did not designate a type species of *Pyrgo* but listed a number of species to be included in his genus. *Paropsis hamadryas* Stål, 1860, one of these, is hereby designated type species. This species is a senior synonym of *Acacicola tristis* Lea (**syn. nov.**; types examined), thereby confirming synonymy of *Pyrgoides* with *Acacicola* Lea (Daccordi, 1994).

Rhaebosterna Weise, 1917: 124

Type species. *Rhaebosterna sciola* Weise, 1917 by monotypy.

Sterromela Weise, 1915: 436

Type species. Weise (1915) placed four species of *Paropsis* in *Sterromela* without designating a type species. The first named of these, *Paropsis subcostata* Chapuis, 1877 is here designated type species.

Trochalodes Weise, 1901: 167

Type species. No type species was designated by Weise (1901) but three species were named, two erroneously. The first and only correctly named species, *Paropsis circe* Stål, 1860 is here designated the type species.

Trachymela Weise, 1908: 8

Type species. No type species was deisgnated by Weise but he listed three species names and, by inferenee, all species in Blackburn's Group III of *Paropsis*. One of the listed names, *Paropsis sloanei* Blackburn 1897, is here designated type species.

Xanthogramma Weise, 1923: 63

Type species. *Xanthogramma pellucida* Weise, 1923 by monotypy.

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